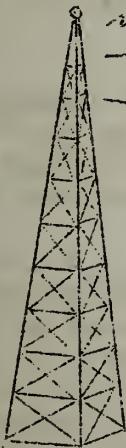


Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

MAY

1957



THIS is STATION A-Y-F
CALLING ALL YOUNGER BOY
CAMPERS AND LEADERS!

FLASH - CAMP TIME IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING! All you campers and leaders are here and now alerted to make your preparations carefully and be at the ready, as C Day (Camp Day) approaches. June 19 is the opening day of camp. A lot of you campers will be coming in with travel groups on June 18th, arriving in the late evening, and moving right into your cabins to be ready for opening activities the next day. Many others of you will be coming in by car and other ways on the 19th. Already I'm looking forward to that time, and I know everyone of you is looking forward with me.

THIS ISSUE OF THE TRAIL comes to you with the hope that it will help you in your camp preparation. You old campers will be reminded of many things about camp that had slipped your mind, and for which you will want to be ready. You new campers will get a glimpse of some of the things you can expect at camp and for which you can be prepared. We know that everyone of you is wondering just who will be there, what kind of staff we're going to have, what sort of program there will be this year, and how things look for camp in general. So follow the "Trail" to all these things and many others.

EVERY SPOT IN CAMP IS TAKEN FOR THIS SUMMER, and has been for many, many months. Registrations come in way ahead of time on these camps, for the word about them has passed far and wide, and many boys are anxious to have this swell Miniwanca experience. Just to give you some idea of how it goes, we already have stopped accepting registrations for 1958. All new applicants for 1958 for many weeks now

have been placed on our waiting list. But never fear! We're holding out a sizable block of places in our 1958 camp for all you 1957 campers who will want to be re-registering. We'll give you that chance next fall. Right now let's talk about this year's camp. On the last page of this issue of the "Trail", you will find the list of this year's campers. We're certainly glad to welcome them into our Miniwanca gang. Any of you old campers who live near them, look them up, and get acquainted. Show them a sample of the Miniwanca spirit even before they leave home. You new campers, it's a great gang you're joining, and we want you to begin acting and feeling like a full-fledged member right from the very start.

FROM FAR AND WIDE COME OUR CAMPERS for the Younger Boys Camp at Miniwanca this year. Boys are registered from 22 states, and our leaders will be coming from 20 states. 192 boys make up the full number of campers; 72 of them are in the Darer Group - 11 and 12 years old; 72 are in the Doer Group - 13 and 14 years old; 48 are in the Pre-Senior Group - 15 and 16 years old. Campers will be there this summer from Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Virginia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, California, Indiana, Colorado, New Hampshire, Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, New York, Kansas, Minnesota, West Virginia, Florida and Iowa. The 33 Y.B. leaders who are working with us this summer come from the states of Ohio, Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Missouri, North Carolina, Indiana, Iowa, Texas, New York, Wisconsin, Kansas, New Mexico, Mississippi and South Carolina. It's going to be a great summer just getting to know so many fellows from several other sections of the country. It's a great time of exchanging ideas, accents, and experiences. You'll find everyone of them, no matter where he comes from, a great guy to know.

MINIWANCA IS FULL OF TREMENDOUS ADVENTURE for every boy who is there. From the very first sound of the bell at rising time in the morning to the dying notes of the bugle and the descending quiet of sleep, there is a great variety of things to see and do and learn, enough to keep a camper busy and happy far more than the brief five weeks we will spend together at Miniwanca.

A TYPICAL DAY sees us rising with the bell and out into the ball diamond or tennis court for morning exercises. This gives a rousing and invigorating start to the day, and everyone is on the way to another great day's experience. A hearty breakfast really gets the day going right, and pulls everyone together in a time of real fellowship in our Eating Lodge at the beginning of the day's activities. Mornings go quickly by with a brief period spent in the necessary chores of clean-up and house cleaning, (without which essential tasks the rest of our fun would soon cease to be fun). Next follows a really intensive period in Instructional Swimming. Every camper, except where medical reasons prevent, is enrolled in a swimming class at the level of his particular swimming ability. These classes are under the guidance of members of our leadership staff who are qualified swimming instructors. Every camper has the possibility of making real progress in his swimming ability while at camp. The morning also brings Assembly time, with singing, stories, stunts, news reports, and planning for big events. A period each morning is spent by each camper in a Christian Ideals' group, under the guidance of a specially chosen leader who is capable of helping draw out through discussion new understanding of the Christian ideals and purposes toward which our lives should be set. These sessions have proved to many fellows to be really challenging times. Each camper also has the opportunity of choosing an Interest Group which will be the center of his late morning activities for a week or more at a time. These Interest Groups are geared to the development of hobbies and the attaining of skills in a tremendous variety of areas. In each area there will be those of the leader staff who have had special experience and training, and who will give guidance to the campers. Typical Interest Group activities include Archery, Basketball, Boxing, Fencing, Tennis, Wrestling, Camp Service projects, Dramatics, Creative Writing, Photography, Sketching and Painting,

Puppetry, Craft Work of all kinds, Choir, Orchestra and Band, Bird Study, Butterfly Collecting, Botany and Biology, Campcraft, Outdoor Cooking, Hiking, Camp Newspaper, Riflery, and many others. Any camper with a particular interest will be given opportunity to pursue that interest further at camp. We encourage everyone of you to bring any equipment or supplies which would be helpful to you in following up your hobby. These Interest Groups give new campers an opportunity to get a look into new hobbies and new activities which they have never had a chance to take part in before.

AT MID-DAY A GOOD SOLID LUNCH in our Eating Lodge, prepared by Ruth Steiner and her carefully selected kitchen crew, gets us refueled for the exciting things to come as the day moves along. Ruth has been our Y.B.Camp Dietitian for a number of years, and there is not a finer one to be found anywhere in the country. You old campers know just what I mean. Following lunch a period of rest and quiet activity in cabins and on the bunks is the order of the day. Every camper and leader is observing this important health practice at the same time.

FOLLOWING THE REST HOUR, the afternoon explodes with a bang. For the purposes of athletic activities and other types of friendly competition, the Younger Boys Camp is divided into Four Tribes. In each of our three age group divisions, Darers, Doers, and Pre-Seniors, there are members of each of these four tribes. Pre-Senior campers of one tribe play in tribal competition against Pre-Senior campers of another tribe, and thus it is in the other age group divisions. All tribal points are pooled for the whole tribe, and thus competition across the entire camp is enjoyed by all. At Miniwanca we do not encourage the development of specialists. We are anxious to see every boy develop a balanced interest in all the important aspects of life. This is true in the physical activities, as well as in all other types of activity. Every camper is a member of his tribe's team for his particular age group. He is engaged in tribal games each afternoon when his age group team is playing. There is no special team, there are no hand picked stars. Every fellow contributes his part, and has his opportunity to learn. All over the camp grounds each afternoon groups are in happy and friendly competitive play. The afternoon also affords opportunity for elective activities including hikes, informal games, and visits to the camp store.

A BIG BLOCK OF AFTERNOON TIME is set aside for recreational swimming and for boating. Miniwanca has one of the finest waterfronts available anywhere. The waterfront at Miniwanca will be under the over-all supervision this year of Gene Givens, camper and leader of many years' experience. Gene is getting out of the Navy the middle of June, and will be on hand for the opening of camp. He will be in charge of the waterfront throughout the entire summer, working with the aquatic directors of each of the various camp units. Back as head of our Aquatic Department of the Younger Boys Camp again this year is John Mothershead, graduate student at the University of Texas, and Instructor in Physical Education at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas. Assisting John will be a number of our Y.B. leaders who hold their Red Cross ratings as Water Safety Instructors or Senior Red Cross Life Savers. The afternoon time on the waterfront affords opportunity also for a variety of boating activities. Miniwanca has a sizable fleet of rowboats, canoes and sailboats. Top-notch instruction is always provided in the use of these small craft, and each year a number of campers qualify for the handling of various types of boats. Some free time at the end of the afternoon brings us to dinner time and on through to the evening's activities.

A TRULY HIGH POINT OF THE DAY is reached at Vesper time when the entire camp moves silently up the shaded winding trail to the top of Vesper Dune. There we sit together, looking out over the vista afforded by Lake Michigan under a glowing sunset. Each evening a different member of our Leader Staff, together with the boys in his

cabin, takes charge of the Vesper hour. Here each fellow is challenged to do some real thinking about the purposes of his life and the way he goes about fulfilling them. Final group activity of the day is what we call at Miniwanca, "Nights Doings." And what an exciting variety of wonderful things to do a fellow comes across in these evening sessions. Sometimes Nights Doings will be by cabin groups. Sometimes by Tribal groups. Sometimes by age groups. Sometimes as an entire camp together. Some Nights Doings activities will be quiet, some will be exceedingly vigorous, some will be colorful, some instructive, some entertaining and humorous, and so it goes. And then the day is brought to a close in the quietness of each cabin, with the campers in that cabin participating together in a brief devotional period, surveying the events of the day, the exciting prospect of the morrow, and renewing together their bonds of responsibility and of love toward God. Quietly yet clearly the bugle sounds Taps, and the hush of sleep descends upon the camp as a trumpet plays the quiet notes of some familiar hymn.

BUT NOT EVERY DAY IS AN AVERAGE DAY AT MINIWANCA! In fact, almost every day has something that is way above average. There are many special events in the Miniwanca activities. Council Circles, for instance, are the center of a great deal of interest. Each Sunday evening brings a Friendly Council in which members of the camp family are given opportunity to share their skills in music, dramatics, speaking and entertainment for the rest of the camp. Several times during the camp period, Low Councils are announced as surprise events. These give individual members of the tribes an opportunity to present skits and stunts for tribal points in competition. You can look forward to some exciting times and zany times in these Low Councils. Near the end of camp Grand Council is held, and the tribal divisions of each age group in camp present full scale stunts, using every member of the tribe, and providing a really high level of entertainment for the whole camp, as each group seeks to outdo the other in the quality of stunt presented. Other special activities include Miniwanca Square Garden where our Boxing Interest Groupers test their skills. County Fair Day, an all camp Rodeo, our annual Aquatic Meet, Athletic Meet, Sailing regatas, and official hikes to special points of interest. Also among the highlights of special activities are the cabin group cookouts and sleep-outs under the stars on the dunes and near the beach, where campers and leader in the quietness of the camp fire truly draw near to one another in spirit and understanding.

THERE WILL BE SOME SURPRISES at Y.B. this year, and there are some very interesting changes. Camp buildings are getting a dressing up in new paint and repair jobs which will really put them in top-notch condition. Those 113 steps up the face of the dune from the waterfront to the Y.B. Assembly (or is it 111 or 116?) are getting a going over this spring. Don Pierce is really going all out to get Y.B. in shape for us. Those steps are being jacked up, straightened out, repaired, and newly weatherproofed in preparation for this season's camp. The Nature Cabin at the top of the dune has gotten a complete overhaul, with new windows, repaired floor, and a number of other touches. It's in first class shape and ready to go. Two really wonderful changes have been already completed at camp during this winter and spring season. I'm tempted not to tell you, but rather to let you guess, and yet it's such exciting news that I can't keep from letting it out. Those old showers that served Y.B. Camp for so many years are no more! In their place is a modern camp shower house, complete with three units of the very latest Bradley circular shower stalls, giving 15 shower heads in operation at once. A change in the system of water heating and supply will render these showers much more usable than what we previously had. I know this will be an addition welcomed by all old campers, and I'm glad to be able to share the news with you. The other exciting bit of news is about the Four-Way Lodge. This winter Rudolph Burmeister and his men went into Y.B. Camp and opened up that Four-Way Lodge on all sides. They then went to work and added a six-foot addition in each direction, thus increasing the diameter of that building by 12 feet. The Four-Way Lodge has for many years been one of the most attractive and

interesting buildings on the camp grounds. The last few years, however, the camp has outgrown it in size, and the building has not been usable for indoor campfires and Council Circles as it was originally intended. Rudolph's work on the FourWay Lodge has put it in first class order, and has increased the size so that Council Circles and other all-camp activities can go on in spite of rain by simply moving into our newly enlarged Four-Way Lodge.

NOT ALL OF THE NEW LOOK WILL BE IN BUILDINGS. There are some real surprises in store for some of the units in the way of program activities this summer. One special surprise of super-duper proportions is being worked out for Pre-Seniors, and since we can't tell all our secrets, we'll keep this one. All I can say is, come and see!

DON'T FORGET to bring the things which will help you to make your camp time more fun. If you're a shutterbug, bring the camera, if you're a musician, bring your instrument, if you're working on a craft project at home, bring the materials along and finish it at camp. Charlie Pauck will be on hand in the Craft Shop to give guidance and help on a great variety of craft projects. If you're a fisherman, bring along your fishing equipment. If you've some other special hobby which requires its special tools, bring them with you, and share your interest along with other interested fellows in camp.

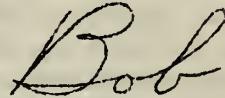
SOME FINE ADDITIONS are being made to the Y.B. Library this year. The book nook in the Blazer Building is filling up, and we are going to want to expand it one of these days in the future. Some campers have been sending boys' books from their own libraries to share with others in camp. Parents of former campers have been sending books which their sons have outgrown. A large addition to our library has been made with the books given by the family of William H. Danforth, "Minisino". These are books selected from his library, following his death last year. When one of our campers registered for 1956 found he would not be able to attend camp due to an accidental injury, his parents wrote and sent his camp fee anyway, with the request that it be used for something of special benefit to the Y.B. Camp. This money has been directed toward some very fine additions to the camp library. If you have books to share, pack them up and ship them off to Miniwanca. Don Pierce will get them ready in plenty of time for camp.

THE Y. B. STAFF THIS YEAR will include Joe Whitwam, the Director for the past 13 years, and a member of the Founder family for many, many years before that. Joe is the Director of Physical Education for the Niles, Michigan High School, and is an able and experienced camp director. Ed Clark, former Y.B. leader and head of the Christian Ideals and counseling programs for the last two years, will be back and heading those programs again this summer. Ed is a minister in Purcellville, Va. He makes some real sacrifices each year to arrange his time and be on hand to serve in this program which he feels to be so significant. Charlie Pauck, who has headed our Craft Department for a number of years, will be back in the Craft job, giving guidance in the many projects heading up there. Our camp Nurse this year will be Miss Elinor Edwards from Cincinnati. Elinor has been in the AYF camps for several summers, and has previously assisted in the nursing program in the Main Unit. Mrs. Carl Givens, Aileen, will be at her accustomed place behind the desk in the main Y. B. office, where she has served so happily and well in the past several seasons. A new addition to our staff will be made this summer in the person of Miss Magdalene Robbert, who will serve as a full-time office assistant in Y.B., helping Aileen out with the many details that need to be cared for. A full corps of cabin leaders will be on hand, as was mentioned earlier in the Trail, and I'll be there, too, seeking to help in every way I can to make your Younger Boys Camp time a really happy and worthwhile time.

WE'VE A REALLY GREAT GROUP OF CABIN LEADERS coming this year. There will be 33 in all, most of whom have had that top-drawer leadership experience in the Older Boys Camp at Miniwanca. At least a third of our cabin leaders are returning to Y.B.Camp, after having served in similar capacities in past years. Among them, old campers will find familiar friends like Don Crawley, John Mothershead, Bob Neubauer, Kenneth Woodruff, Tom Princing, Don Stoner, Bob Buckingham, Fox Spinks, Charles Timberlake, and others. A fine group of new leaders has been added to this staff this year, and you will find them helping to keep the quality of our leadership moving right on up the scale.

WELL, THAT WRAPS IT UP FOR NOW. It's only a handful of very short weeks until we're all together on the sand dunes enjoying a time of real Fourfold living in the Y.B. Camp.

Founderly yours,



Robert Steiger
Co-Director

SPECIAL NOTE TO CAMPERS AND PARENTS

1. No fireworks of any kind are to be brought to Camp Miniwanca. The Fourth of July is made a very special day at camp, but fireworks have no part in it. Fireworks are against the law in Michigan, except where a special permit is obtained, and they are a particular safety hazard in camp.
2. Please leave hunting knives or sheaf knives at home. Any use you have for a knife at camp can be adequately fulfilled by a pocket knife. When camping in a group as we will be at Miniwanca, we can only consider hunting knives as an unnecessary hazard.
3. We are pleased to have parents visit camp at any time. We encourage you to include that in your summer plans. A few things should be clearly understood beforehand, however. (a) The camp schedule is not altered to accommodate visitors. Campers are expected to fulfill their obligations to their fellow campers by carrying on in the regular camp program. (b) Some visitors can be accommodated for meals from time to time, if advance notice is given, and space is not already filled. (c) Parents wishing to take their sons away from the camp grounds for a brief period of time are permitted to do so at times when the camper is free from in-camp obligations. Do not plan to take other campers along - they are permitted to leave only in the company or by the written permission of their parents. A moment's reflection will help campers and parents alike to see our reasons for this regulation.

NEW CAMPERS

OF
1957



Arendshort, Thomas, Holland, Mich.
 Auer, Campbell, St. Louis, Mo.
 Austin, Hunter, Waynesboro, Va.
 Bauer, William, Ladysmith, Wis.
 Bell, Richard, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Bell, William, St. Louis, Mo.
 Blair, John, Bradford, Pa.
 Blakemore, Frank, Columbia, Mo.
 Boeschenstein, Bennett, University City, Mo.
 Boswell, Frederick, Ladue, Mo.
 Boydston, Charles, Galesburg, Ill.
 Brandenburger, Tom, St. Louis, Mo.
 Bricker, William, Birmingham, Mich.
 Brown, Peter, Galesburg, Ill.
 Bushyhead, James, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Campbell, Jeff, Dayton, Ohio
 Christy, Richard, Marietta, Ohio
 Clark, Stuart, Stockton, Calif.
 Curtis, William, Boulder, Colo.
 Davis, Clark, Cleveland, Ohio
 Derby, Charles, Peterborough, N. H.
 Disse, Bob, Kirkwood, Mo.
 Dougherty, John, Canton, Ohio
 Douglas, Robert, Cleveland, Ohio
 Dyer, Brooks, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Dyer, Peter, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Eibling, Mike, Columbus, Ohio
 Erckman, Richard, Atlanta, Ga.
 Evans, Donald, Kansas City, Mo.
 Fearnside, Robert, Bowling Green, Ohio
 Fearnside, William, Bowling Green, Ohio
 Getlin, Lonney, LaGrange, Ill.
 Graham, Phillip, Canton, Ohio
 Hanmer, John, Hart, Mich.
 Hall, William, Salem, Ohio
 Hartman, Malcolm, Beloit, Wis.
 Hazard, Stephen, Huntington, N. Y.
 Hecker, William, St. Louis, Mo.
 Hillman, Robert, Creve Coeur, Mo.
 Hine, James, Urbana, Ill.
 Hoffmann, William, Hannibal, Mo.
 Horner, Wesley, St. Louis, Mo.
 Hueni, Dan, Lansing, Mich.
 Hudson, Robin, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Hughes, James, Muskegon, Mich.

Jackman, David, Wichita, Kan.
 Kinney, James, Shaker Heights, Ohio
 Klein, Charles, St. Louis, Mo.
 Latta, James, LaGrange, Ill.
 Laymen, William, Dayton, Ohio
 Leathers, Richard, Greenville, Ohio
 McCarroll, David, Clayton, Mo.
 McCleary, Pat, Beloit, Wis.
 McGee, William, Webster Groves, Mo.
 McGonigle, Paul, Dayton, Ohio
 Mennel, Donald, Fostoria, Ohio
 Michael, James, Bethesda, Md.
 Nelson, Fred, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Norwich, George, University City, Mo.
 Pemberton, Conrad, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Petering, Robert, Clayton, Mo.
 Peters, Richard, Oak Park, Ill.
 Pratt, Arthur, Kirkwood, Mo.
 Price, Kenneth, St. Louis, Mo.
 Proos, John, Dayton, Ohio
 Quackenbush, Glenn, Birmingham, Mich.
 Raezer, Michael, St. Albans, W. Va.
 Resseger, William, Shaker Heights, Ohio
 Rodgers, John, Creve Coeur, Mo.
 Rood, David, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Rosborough, James, Moline, Ill.
 Rowe, David, Elmhurst, Ill.
 Rowe, John, Elmhurst, Ill.
 Royer, Spencer, Kirkwood, Mo.
 Saunders, Thomas, Columbus, Ohio
 Schery, Stephen, Marysville, Ohio
 Schlapp, Henry, Brentwood, Mo.
 Scott, Larry, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Selcke, Ronald, Addison, Ill.
 Simmonds, Russell, Cleves, Ohio
 Sleight, Douglas, Worthington, Ohio
 Smith, Robert, Berwyn, Ill.
 Stauffer, Kent, Rocky River, Ohio
 Swann, Curtis, Gallipolis, Ohio
 Volle, John, Springfield, Ill.
 Walker, John, Oak Park, Ill.
 Weber, Harry, University City, Mo.
 Welton, Michael, Sioux City, Iowa
 Willert, William, Webster Groves, Mo.
 Wolf, Edgar, East Carondelet, Ill.
 Wulff, Chris, St. Louis, Mo.



To Miniwanca of Course

But

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